Strategies to Protect the Health of Deployed U.S. Forces

Force Protection and Decontamination

Michael A. Wartell, Michael T. Kleinman, Beverly M. Huey, and Laura M. Duffy, *Editors*

Strategies to Protect the Health of Deployed U.S. Forces: Physical Protection and Decontamination

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STRATEGIES TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF DEPLOYED U.S. FORCES: FORCE PROTECTION AND DECONTAMINATION

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Preface

Chemical and biological (CB) warfare has been the subject of numerous studies supported by a wide spectrum of sponsoring groups, ranging from the military to private sector foundations. Given how much has already been said on the subject, one might conclude that little remains on which to comment. However, the subject is complex and controversial enough that with each new hostile military encounter, with each potential new threat, with each report of a possible terrorist action using CB agents, our defensive preparedness comes under new scrutiny.

The military experience in the Gulf War, while overwhelmingly positive by almost any measure, raised some concerns. One obvious uncertainty was that there might be a causal relationship between the presence of CB agents in theater and the symptoms reported by returning military personnel, later named the "Gulf War Syndrome." Studies focused initially on whether personnel might have been exposed to low-level doses of chemical agents, and if this exposure could have resulted in the reported symptoms. More recent studies have been expanded to cover the whole range of CB defense, from medical issues to material development to doctrine and training.

Responding to the need for an evaluation of the military's ability to prosecute missions in CB environments, the Department of Defense Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, through the National Academies, sponsored a study of strategies to protect the health of deployed U.S. forces, focused on CB defense. The first part of this three-year study was divided into four parallel studies (1) to develop an analytical framework for assessing the risks to deployed forces; (2) to review and

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evaluate technologies and methods for detection and tracking exposures to those risks; (3) to review and evaluate physical protection and decontamination; and (4) to review and evaluate medical protection, health consequences and treatment, and medical record keeping. Now, at the end of the second year of the study, each group is providing a report to DoD and the public on its findings and recommendations in these areas. These four documents will be used as a basis for a new National Academies consensus committee that will prepare a synthesis report for DoD in the third year of the project. The consensus committee will consider, not only the topics covered in the four two-year studies, but also overarching issues relevant to its broader charge.

This report responds to the third of the first four studies, physical protection and decontamination. The task, which is more fully described in the first chapter, includes (1) an assessment of DoD's approaches and technologies for physical protection—both individual and collective—against CB warfare agents and decontamination of personnel and equipment, and (2) an assessment of DoD's current policies, doctrine, and training. The issues of space, budget, and staffing allocations for these programs, although extremely important, are beyond the scope of this report. Unlike most National Academies studies, two principal investigators conducted this study, with the assistance and guidance of an advisory panel. The expertise of this advisory panel covered various topics addressed by the study.

During the data-gathering phase, we received extensive briefings, visited various facilities, consulted with numerous experts, solicited commissioned papers on specialized topics, attended many related national conferences and symposia, and reviewed other material provided by DoD and from the open literature. We also held one workshop to gather additional information on focussed topics. We are indebted to the organizations and individuals that gave freely of their time and talents to this project. A special note of thanks to the individuals, listed by name, appears in Appendix F of this report. Given the countless individuals who shared their expertise with us, there is no doubt the list is incomplete; and we apologize for the oversights.

In responding to our Statement of Task, we attempted to cover each aspect of the requested information, adding introductory and historical information. No single study, however, can do justice to the entire breadth of topics included in our study charge. Therefore, we decided to focus on issues on which we believed we could provide especially helpful advice to the military.

During the course of the study, we were struck by several aspects of the CB defense community: (1) their dedication to their professions, in general, and to CB protection, in particular; (2) the extent to which PREFACE ix

decades-old threat information continues to influence current requirements and considerations; (3) the willingness of policy makers to accept "worst case" assessments against which to develop programs, as opposed to developing more valid benchmarks based on more up-to-date information; (4) the continuing need for basic science information on the chemical, physical, and toxicological properties of CB agents to facilitate the development of modeling and simulations; (5) the need for more and better uses of modeling and simulations; and (6) the contrast between the high quality doctrine and training approaches available and inconsistent CB training across services and across units.

We wish to emphasize that the CB defense community is competent, caring, and dedicated. Although we suggest areas for improvement in this report, we retain a strongly positive overall impression of the work of the CB community.

The individuals who reviewed the draft report were especially important to the construction of the final report. They provided thoughtful and constructive comments that significantly enhanced the quality of the final report. Finally, we gratefully acknowledge the work and support of Beverly Huey, the National Academies study director for this project. Her dedication, intelligence, and flexibility were invaluable and are deeply appreciated. We also thank Laura Duffy, the research associate, for her efforts in acquiring and organizing data that were central to our analyses.

Michael T. Kleinman Michael A. Wartell Principal Investigators

Strategies to Protect the Health of Deployed U.S. Forces: Physical Protection and Decontamination

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We are appreciative of the cooperation we received from the many individuals and organizations who provided valuable information and guidance to us in the course of our work. First, we extend our sincere thanks to the members of the advisory panel who provided assistance and guidance during the information gathering process, gave thought-provoking presentations in their respective areas of expertise, participated in briefings from various organizations, and provided thoughtful comments on the initial drafts of this report. We are also indebted to those individuals who prepared commissioned papers for our use: William Hinds, who wrote a paper on respiratory protection; Sidney Katz on air contaminant removal; Frank Ko on textiles and garments for chemical and biological protection; Howard I. Maibach and Hongbo Zhai on barrier creams, percutaneous absorption, and skin decontamination techniques; and Maher Todios on decontamination.

We are grateful for the guidance and support from others at the National Academies, including Joseph Cassells and Suzanne Woolsey, who assisted in the coordination of the four separate study efforts as they were simultaneously being conducted; Bruce Braun, who assisted in scoping the study, nurtured it throughout its execution and provided ongoing oversight; and Douglas Bauer and Dennis Chamot, who adeptly dealt with stumbling blocks when they occurred in the process and provided thoughtful insights throughout the course of the study. We also appreciate the work of Pamela Lewis who provided administrative assistance in preparing this document for review and publication, and Carol Arenberg, who edited this document, enhancing its clarity. Finally, we are indebted

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Without the extensive contributions and thought-provoking comments so freely given by so many individuals throughout the course of this study, we could not have completed the task set before us. We would like to acknowledge those individuals who provided briefings, arranged site visits to their organizations, gave presentations at the workshop, supplied invaluable information and reports critical to our charge, answered our searching questions very honestly, and assisted us in contacting other sources who could provide additional information and documentation not easily accessible. There is no doubt the list is incomplete, and we apologize for any oversights (see Appendix F).

This report has also been reviewed by individuals chosen for their diverse perspectives and technical expertise, in accordance with procedures approved by the National Research Council's Report Review Committee. The purpose of this independent review is to provide candid and critical comments that will assist the authors and the National Research Council in making the published report as sound as possible and to ensure that the report meets institutional standards for objectivity, evidence, and responsiveness to the study charge. The content of the review comments and draft manuscript remain confidential to protect the integrity of the deliberative process. We wish to thank the following individuals for their participation in the review of this report:

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABBREVIATIONS

2D	two dimensional
3D	three dimensional
cfm	cubic foot per minute
CG	phosgene
Cl	chlorine
CK	cyanogen chloride
Ct	concentration × time
CX	phosgene oxime
D ₁₀	the dose level required to reduce the sample population by a factor of 10
DS2	decontaminating solution number 2
DS2P	propylene glycol monomethyl ether
ECt ₅₀	the <i>Ct</i> dose that causes a defined effect (e.g., edema or death) in 50 percent of a given population
GA	tabun
GB	sarin

soman

gram per denier

GD

g/den

H Levinstein mustard H2S hydrogen sulfide HD distilled mustard

HL mustard-lewisite mixture

HN nitrogen mustard

 ICt_{50} the Ct dose that incapacitates 50 percent of a given

population

 ID_{50} the dose that incapacitates 50 percent of a given

population

L Lewisite

lpm liters per minute

MeV million electron volts m²/g square meter per gram

 $mg \times min/m^3$ milligram times minute per cubed meter

mm millimeter

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{nm} & \text{nanometers} \\ \text{NO}_{\text{x}} & \text{nitrogen oxides} \end{array}$

ppb parts per billion

 Ω -kg/m² ohm kilogram per square meter

ACRONYMS

AERP aircrew eye/respiratory protection

ALERT attack and launch early reporting to theater
ASTM American Society for Testing and Materials
aircrew uniform integrated battlefield

BDO battle dress overgarment BDU battle dress uniform

BWC Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention

CB chemical and/or biological

CBIRF Chemical Biological Incident Response Force

CINC commander-in-chief CONUS continental United States

CPE collective protection equipment CPU chemical protective undergarment

CWC Chemical Weapons Convention

DARPA Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
DATSD (CP/CBD) Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for

Counter-proliferation and Chemical/Biological

Defense

DEPMEDS deployable medical system
DoD U.S. Department of Defense
DMMP dimethyl methylphosphate
DPD dermatopharmacodynamic
DPK dermatopharmacokinetic

ERDEC Edgewood Research, Development, and

Engineering Center (now known as the Chemical-Biological Center of Excellence of the Soldier and

Biological Chemical Command)

FF fit factor FM field manual

FOC functional operational capability

FR flame resistance FY fiscal year

ICBPG improved chemical and biological protective glove

IOM Institute of Medicine

JCS Joint Chiefs of Staff

JPO-BD Joint Program Office for Biological Defense JSAPE joint service aircrew protective ensemble

JSAM joint service aircrew mask

JSGPM joint service general purpose mask JSIG Joint Service Integration Group

JSLIST joint service lightweight integrated suit technology

JSMG Joint Service Materiel Group

LCBPG lightweight chemical/biological protective

garment

LRC lesser regional conflicts
LSC liquid scintillation counting

MAG military air guideline

MCBAT Medical Chemical-Biological Advisory Team

MIST Man-in-Simulant Test (program)

MLRS multiple launch rocket system MNS mission needs statement

MOPP mission-oriented protective posture

MRC major regional conflicts

MULO multipurpose rain/snow/CB overboot

MURI multidisciplinary university research initiative

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NBC nuclear, biological, chemical NMR nuclear magnetic resonance

OOTW operations other than war

OPAA organophosphorous acid anhydrolase

OPH organophosphorous hydrolase

P3I preplanned product improvement (program)

PF protection factor

POM program objective memorandum PPE personal protective equipment

PVC polyvinyl chloride

R&D research and development

RDA research, development and acquisition
RDIC resuscitation device individual chemical
RDT&E research, development, test and evaluation

RSDL reactive skin decontaminant lotion

SAW surface acoustic wave

SBCCOM Soldier and Biological Chemical Command SCALP suit, contamination avoidance, liquid protection

SLS sodium lauryl sulfate

SMART-CB special medical augmentation response team-

chemical/biological

SMART-PM special medical augmentation response team-

preventative medicine

SRT Specialty Response Team

STEPO self-contained toxic environment protective outfit

TAP toxicological agent protective

TEMPER tent, expandable modular personnel

TG technical guide

VHP vapor of hydrogen peroxide VPU vapor protective undergarment

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